



FEB 24 2021 530p

CITY OF DANBURY CULTURAL COMMISSION

256 Main Street
Danbury, Connecticut 06810
203 797 4508

BY: JCa

February 22, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting

The Meeting called to order, as a video conference call, by Chairman Harvey Center at 6:30 pm with Commissioners: Richard Aronson, Helen Bechard, John Cherry, John Cooke, Ed Moore, Cheryl Hill, Gregory Smith, and Coordinator Gregory Wencek. Absent: Mary Burke. Public: Sandy Chaleski.

Presentation of Minutes

The Minutes of the January meeting were submitted. A motion by GSmith to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by JCooke. Passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence

eMail: RECEIVED -

SENT - New grant available for shuttered venues in Connecticut to former grant recipients.

Mail:

Phone:

Reports on DCC sponsored events

- Events SPORADIC Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7PP

Danbury events not sponsored by the Commission

- Danbury Music Centre
- Danbury Museums
 - The outdoor exhibit panels are installed. Stop by and have a look at these colorful images from your favorite fair.
- Palace Theater Danbury
- Galleries
 - Gallery at Still River Editions
 - @287 287 Main St. Danbury
 - Gallery of the Visual and Performing Arts Center WCSU Westside campus, 43 Lake Ave. Extension
- Accessible Art
 - City Hall,
 - CityCenter Danbury,
 - Hodge Insurance,
 - Filosa Convalescent/Hancock Hall,
 - Bethel Public Library,
- Danbury Library

Upcoming events

Calendar submitted to the Commissioners, and maintained at DanburyArts.com
EVENTS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RESUME DUE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC.



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Coordinator's Report

1. CD Received from Derek Piotr
2. No reply from Abbott Tech re: Poetry contest school coordinator
3. Make Music Day dues paid and agreement signed
4. Reply from Corporation Council re: indemnity Reply from ERIC GOTTSCHALK (There is a Document with his full opinion available.)
 - a. If a Commissioner's conduct is in good faith, [there is no personal liability]. If that conduct is in bad faith, all those bets are off. But bear in mind that expletives are generally protected by the First Amendment as long as they aren't the equivalent of yelling "fire" in a crowded theatre or are "fighting words" (these are words that by their very utterance tend to inflict injury or incite an immediate breach of the peace – there are many examples of these and all deal with whether or not the speaker could face prosecution – even the "fighting words" category has been narrowed over time so that more speech is covered by notions of free speech protection under the First Amendment). And importantly, note that even in these exceptional cases the risk would fall on the speaker, not on the Commissioners.
 - b. In short, good faith conduct, within the scope of a Commissioner's duties is an excellent defense.
 - c. Finally, I will tell you that in my 42 years representing the City of Danbury, I have never encountered a public official volunteering on any city board, agency or commission that lost a dime.

Appeals from Community groups:

None

Old Business

1. University Intern project - Update from Jonathan Wencek:
 - a. The Western Connecticut State University Advisor has accepted the project from Johathan, who is proceeding with the project.
 - b. The publication will be on-line, published on the Commission website DanburyArts.com. The project will include a version formatted for printing which could be printed, but actual physical printing will fall outside the Interns project.
 - c. This is planned to be a one time project. The outline for reproducing this project will be available.
 - d. Participants in the Commission's Literary contest will have the opportunity to submit.
 - e. The Intern will need a Commission advisor.

Moved by RAranson to have HBechard be the Intern Coordinator for this project, Seconded by CHill.

DISCUSSION: HBechard volunteers to be the advisor. The exact requirements will be coming from the University Advisor, through Jonathan.

CALLED: Passed by majority vote, HBechard abstains.

2. JCooke will formulate a budget for Make Music Day so funds can be reserved.



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New Business

1. A judge is still needed for the Poetry contest. The Short Story contest will be on hiatus this year.

2. Motion by HBechard to set aside \$4,000 for the annual scholarship awards, seconded by JCooke.

DISCUSSION: Recipients are selected from Danbury High and Abbott Tech by their respective committees and are awarded at the end of the school year.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

3. Motion by JCooke to set aside \$1,200 for Literary Awards prizes, seconded by GSmith.

DISCUSSION: Winners are selected from Danbury high school age students and are awarded at the end of the school year.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

4. Motion by GSmith to set aside \$3,000 for Designs for Danbury project, seconded by JCooke.

DISCUSSION: Project will seek to promote Danbury as a cultural destination. The award is planned for the end of the Spring.

CALLED: Passed by unanimous vote.

Other Business

1. JCooke asked the Coordinator to notify Derek Piotr of the Make Music Day project so that he might participate.

Motion to adjourn at 7:00

Made by HBechard. Passed by Unanimous vote.

NOTE:

Corporation Counsel has provided the Clerk's office with the following... Current as of 3/16/20:

Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B issued on 3/14/20, the requirement of public attendance at all meetings of public agencies is suspended. Meetings are to be held remotely by conference call, videoconference, or other technology, provided that (in summary):

1) the public has the ability to view or listen to each meeting or proceeding in real time by phone, video or other technology.

Therefore the Commission office had set up a video conference call which started at 6:00 on Monday evening. Commissioners and the public connected to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81776893474?pwd=SHRna1pyaUVUcm1QdXQ0aUYzM1Bndz09> Meeting ID: 817 7689 3474 and passcode: 843451. Or call 929 205 6099 and use Access code: 817 7689 3474 and Passcode 843451. The meeting started at 6:30 and was not recorded by the Commission.

Upcoming events CURTAILED Effective with Gov. Lamont's Executive Order No. 7B

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